



THE WALKING DEAD 48



Adlard 10/07

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IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

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Previously:

Unable to break through the prison defenses, the people of Woodbury started to retreat. Furious at this, The Governor ordered the tank to drive through the fences, breaking into the prison grounds. The tide turned, the Governor and his people marched into the prison. Rick and his crew turned their attention toward escape--but not before Rick could find his family inside the prison. As he arrived inside, he found his wife, Lori, with a gun to the back of her head.

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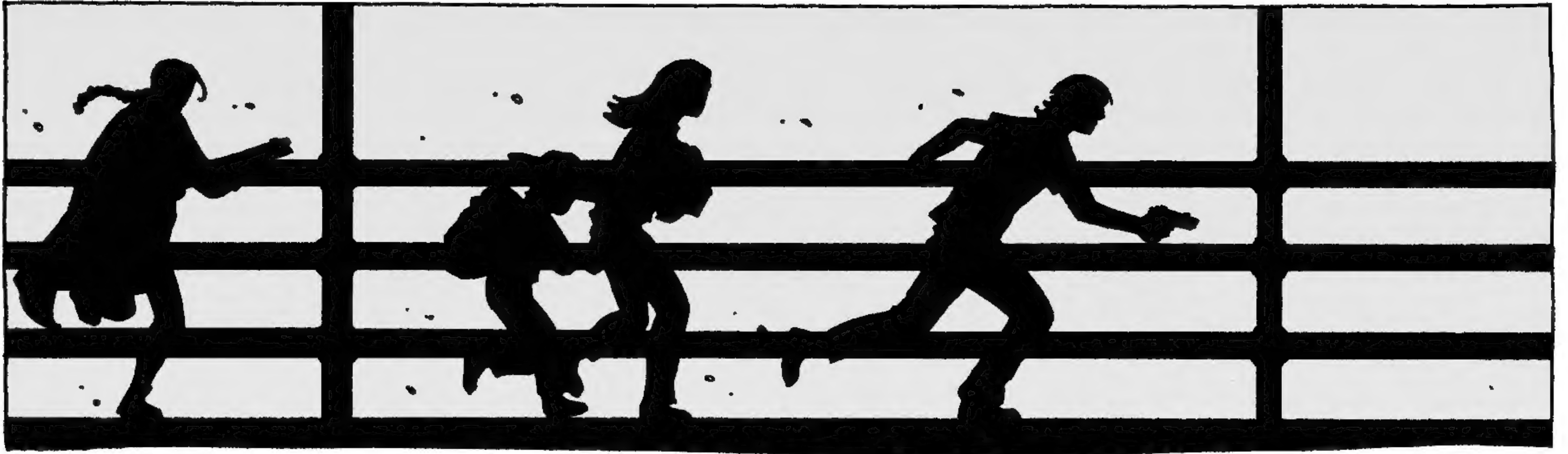
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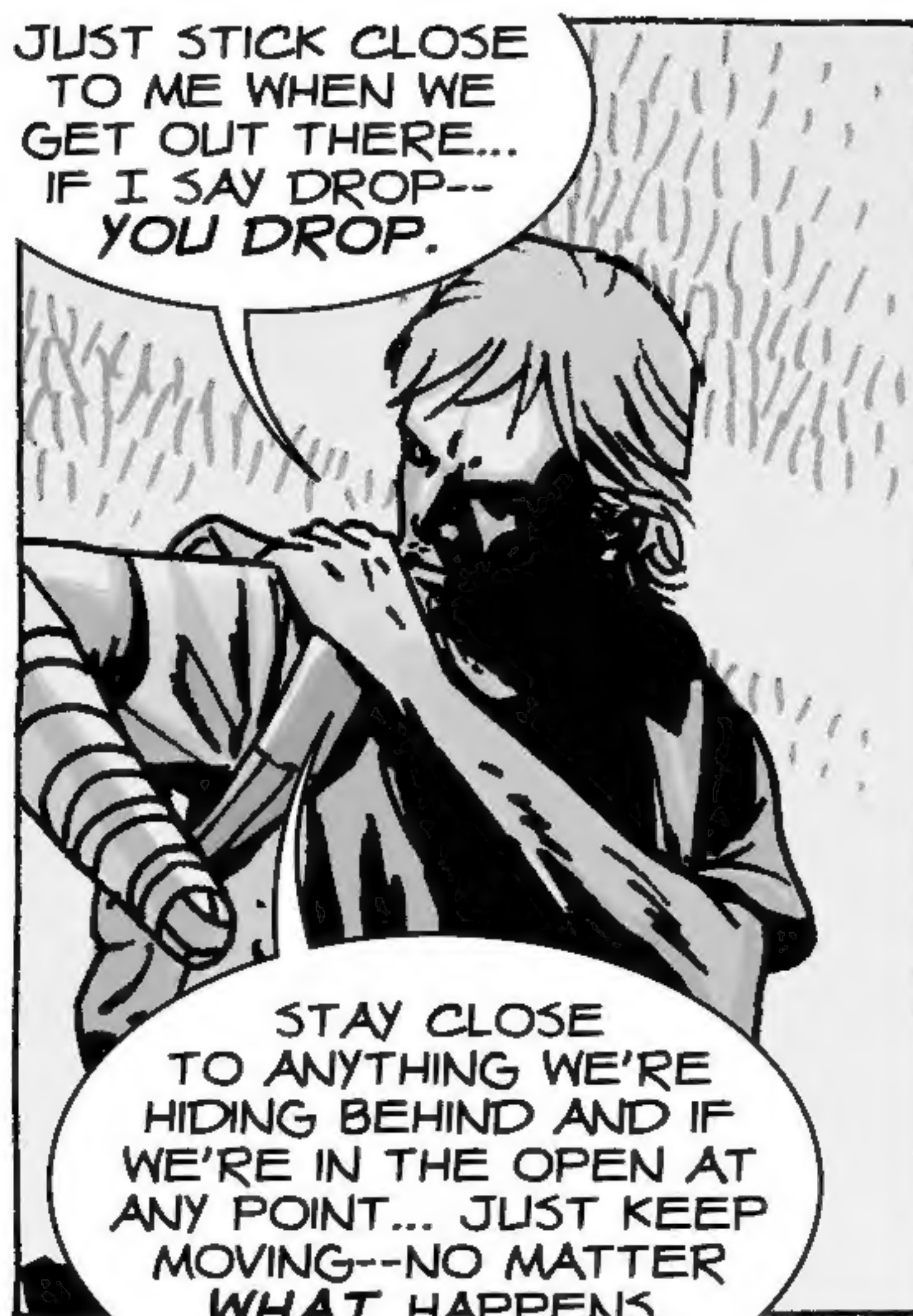






CARL, GIVE ME THE BACKPACK... I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WAS THINKING.

I DON'T WANT ANYTHING SLOWING YOU DOWN.



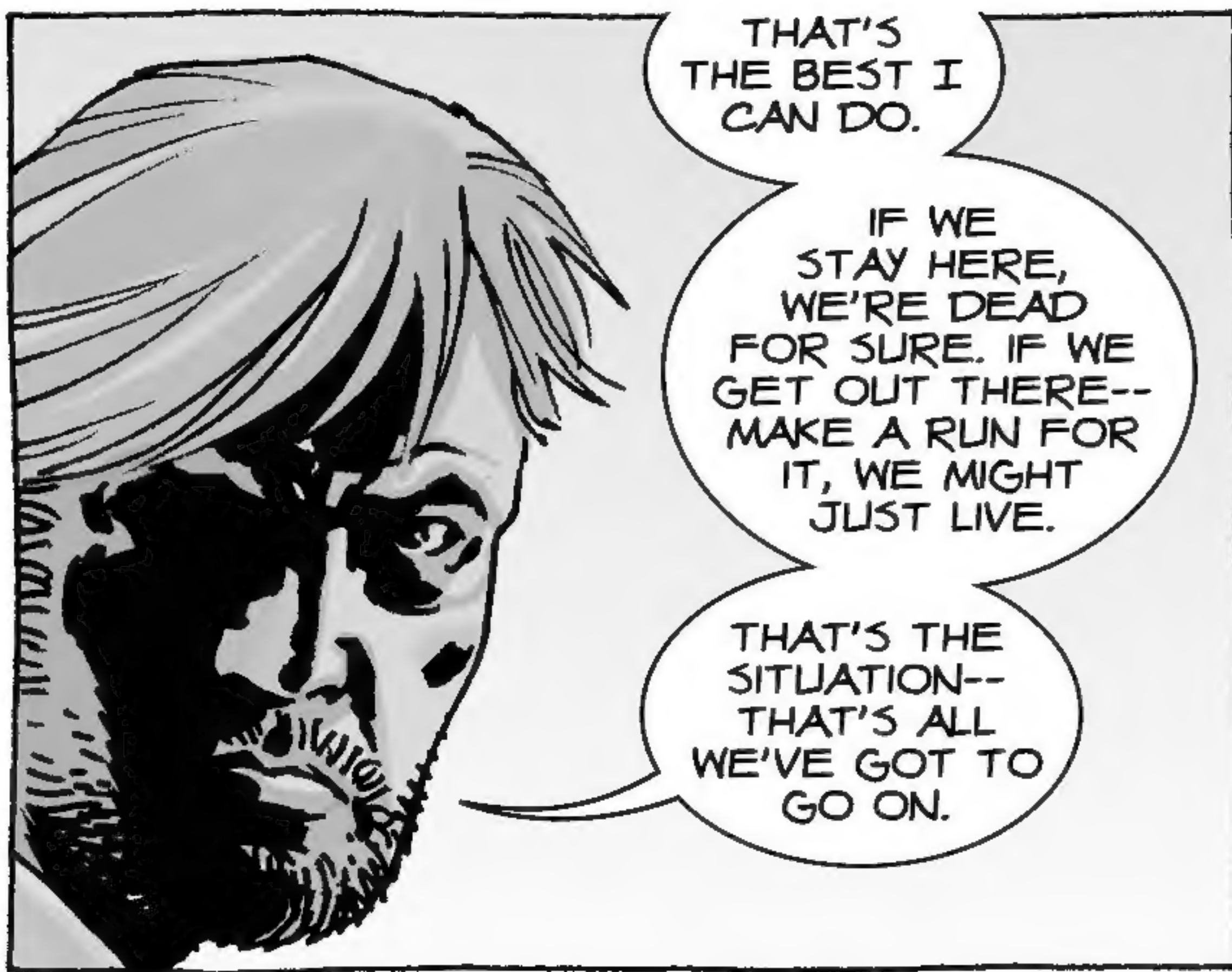
JUST STICK CLOSE TO ME WHEN WE GET OUT THERE... IF I SAY DROP-- YOU DROP.

STAY CLOSE TO ANYTHING WE'RE HIDING BEHIND AND IF WE'RE IN THE OPEN AT ANY POINT... JUST KEEP MOVING--NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.



IS THAT THE PLAN? WE JUST MAKE A RUN FOR IT? WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE? ARE WE GOING TO WALK OUT INTO A WALL OF GUNS FIRING AT US?

WE JUST HOPE TO MAKE IT TO THE TRUCK? THAT'S IT?



THAT'S THE BEST I CAN DO.

IF WE STAY HERE, WE'RE DEAD FOR SURE. IF WE GET OUT THERE-- MAKE A RUN FOR IT, WE MIGHT JUST LIVE.

THAT'S THE SITUATION-- THAT'S ALL WE'VE GOT TO GO ON.



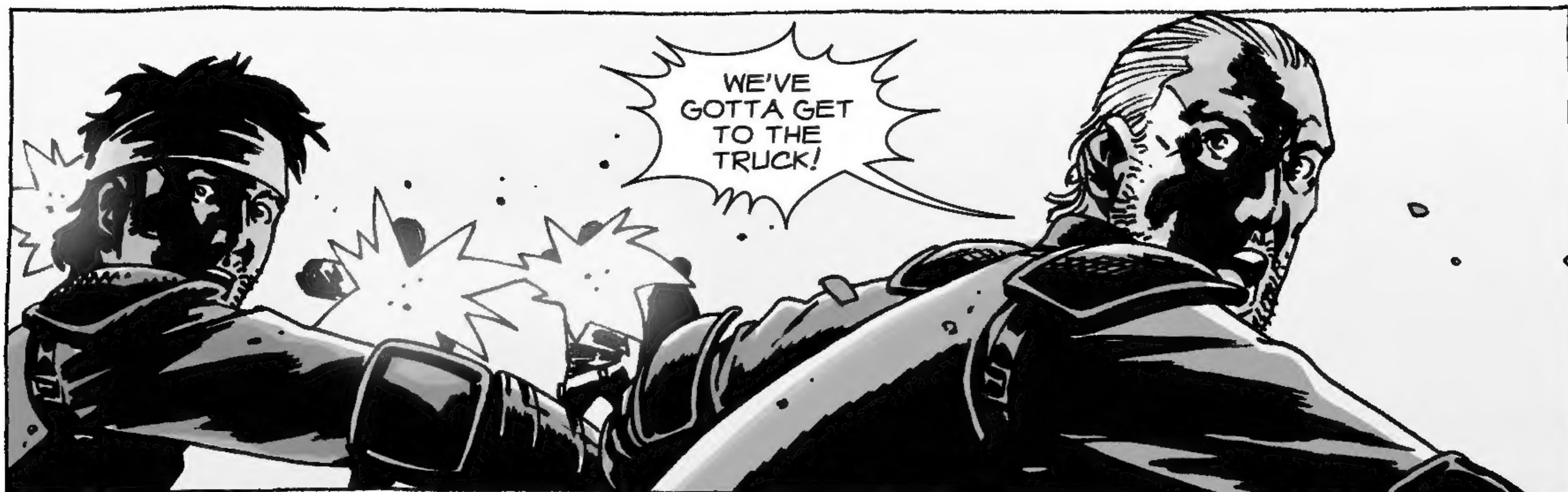
IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY. WE'RE LEAVING OUT OF THE DOOR CLOSEST TO THE TRUCK. HERSHEL AND THE REST SHOULD BE MEETING US THERE.

THIS WILL WORK-- WE'LL BE OKAY.

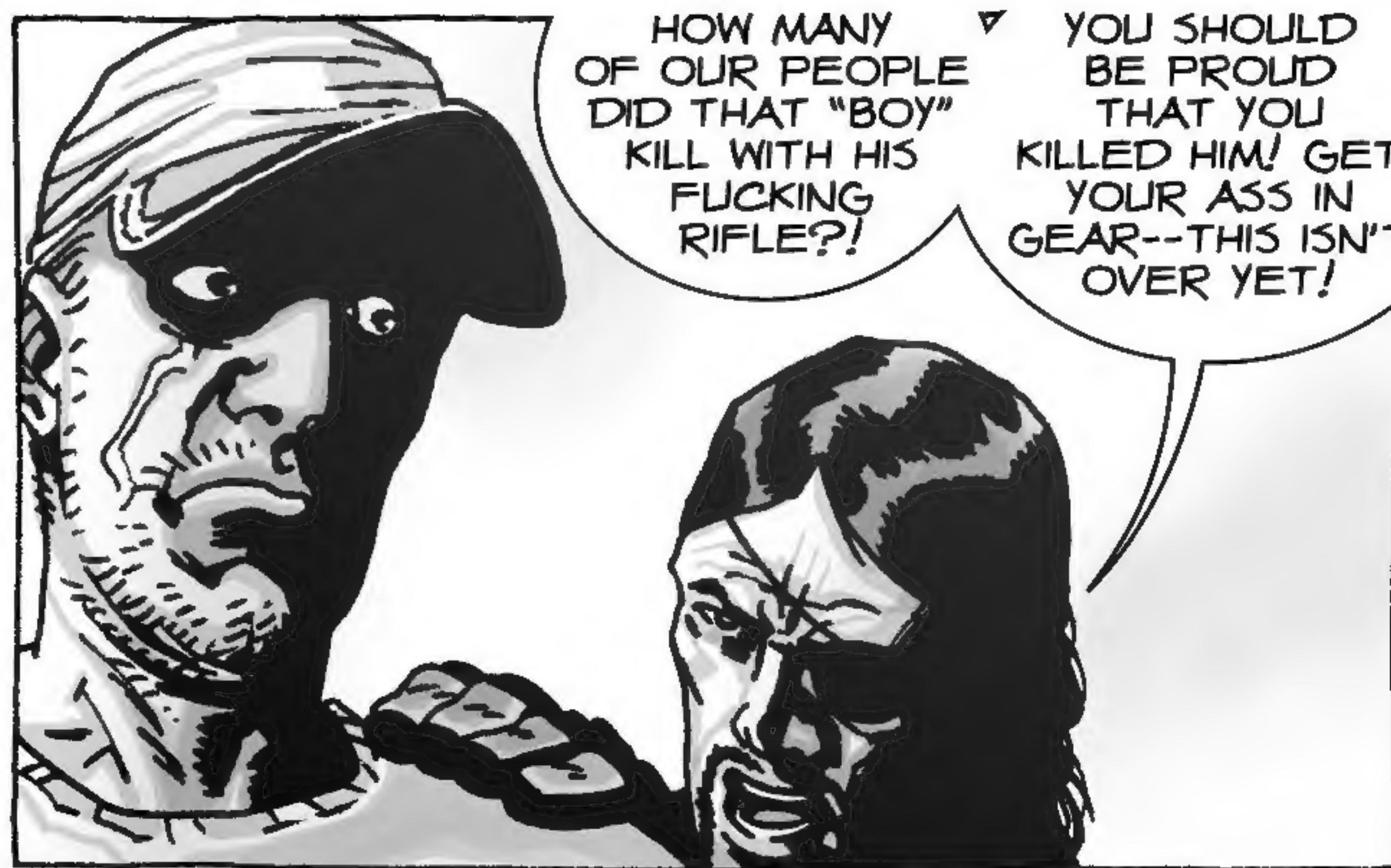
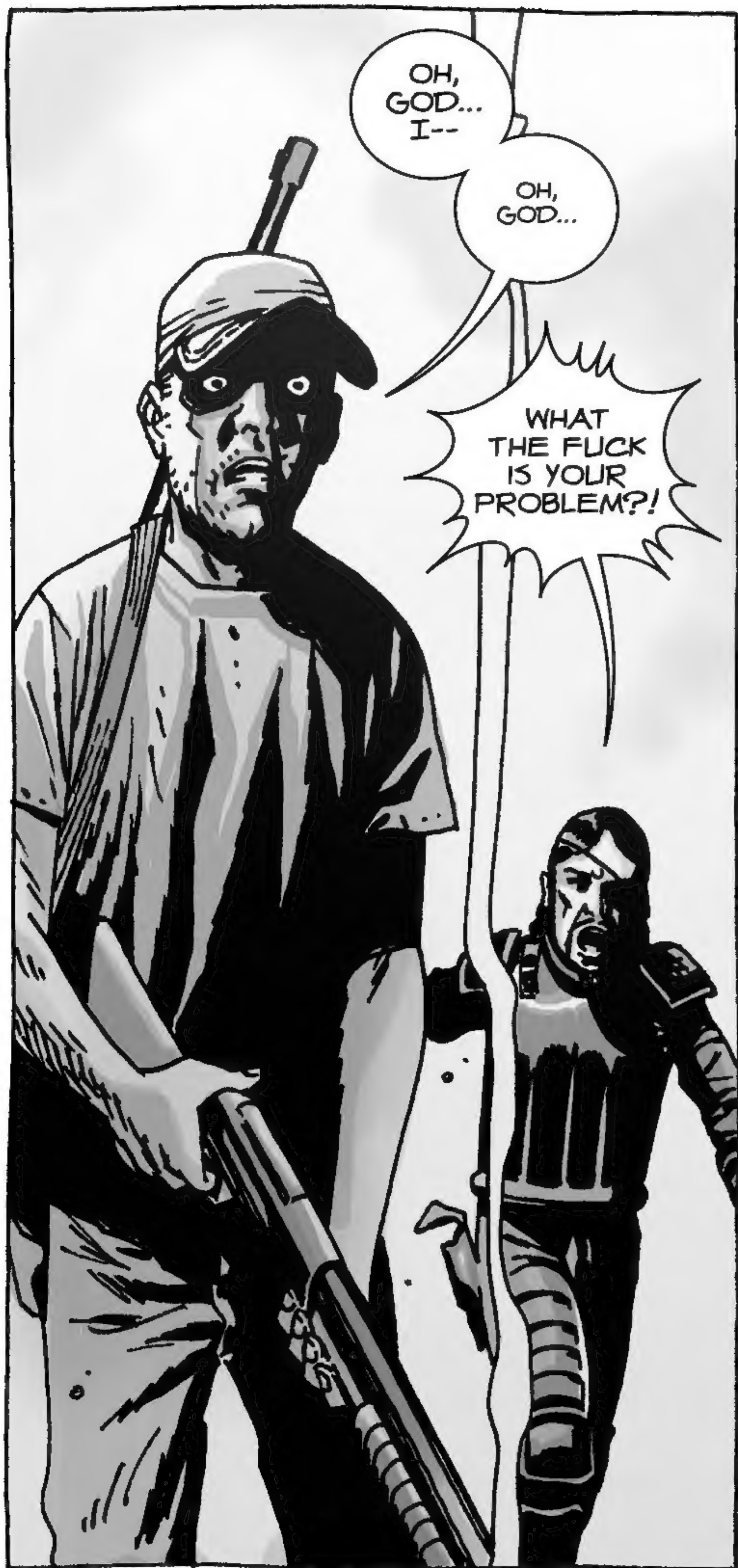
WE JUST NEED TO HURRY. C'MON.

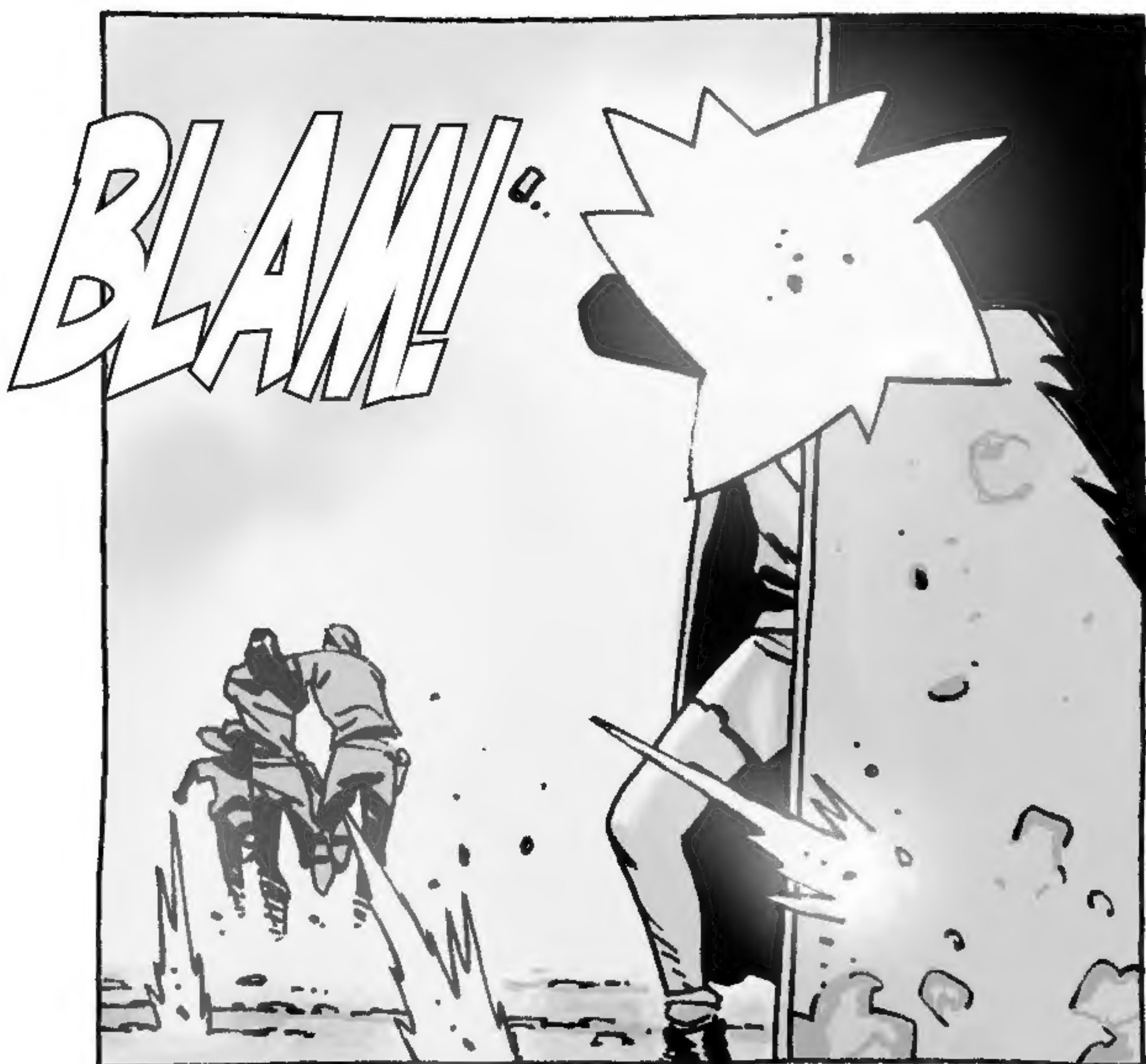














AGGH!
FUCK!



FUCK
YOU!



CARL, SLOW
DOWN JUST A
LITTLE--STAY
CLOSE. YOUR
MOTHER CAN'T
KEEP UP.

JUST
STAY
CLOSE!



BITCH.



TAKE
THEM
OUT.

NOW!

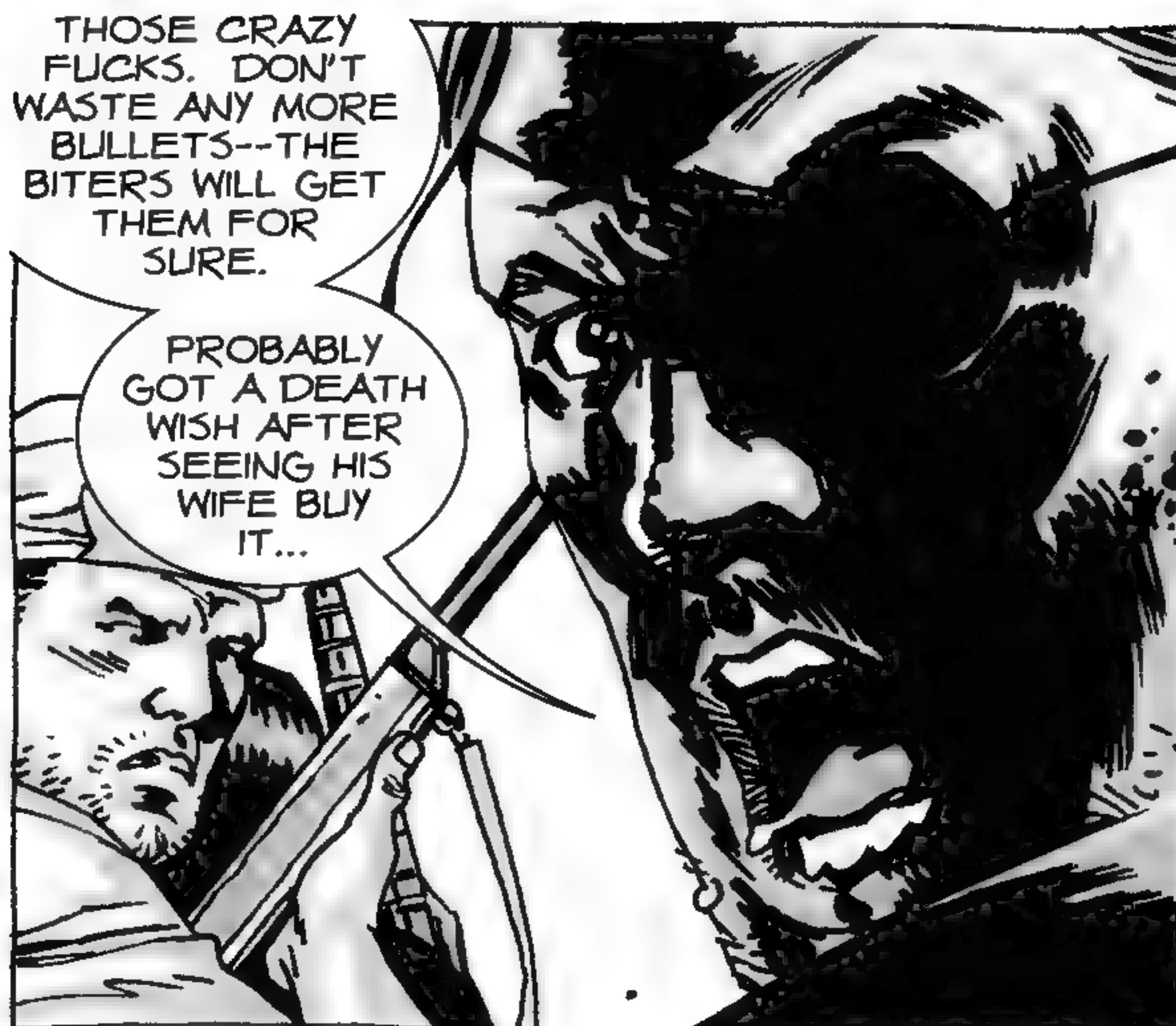


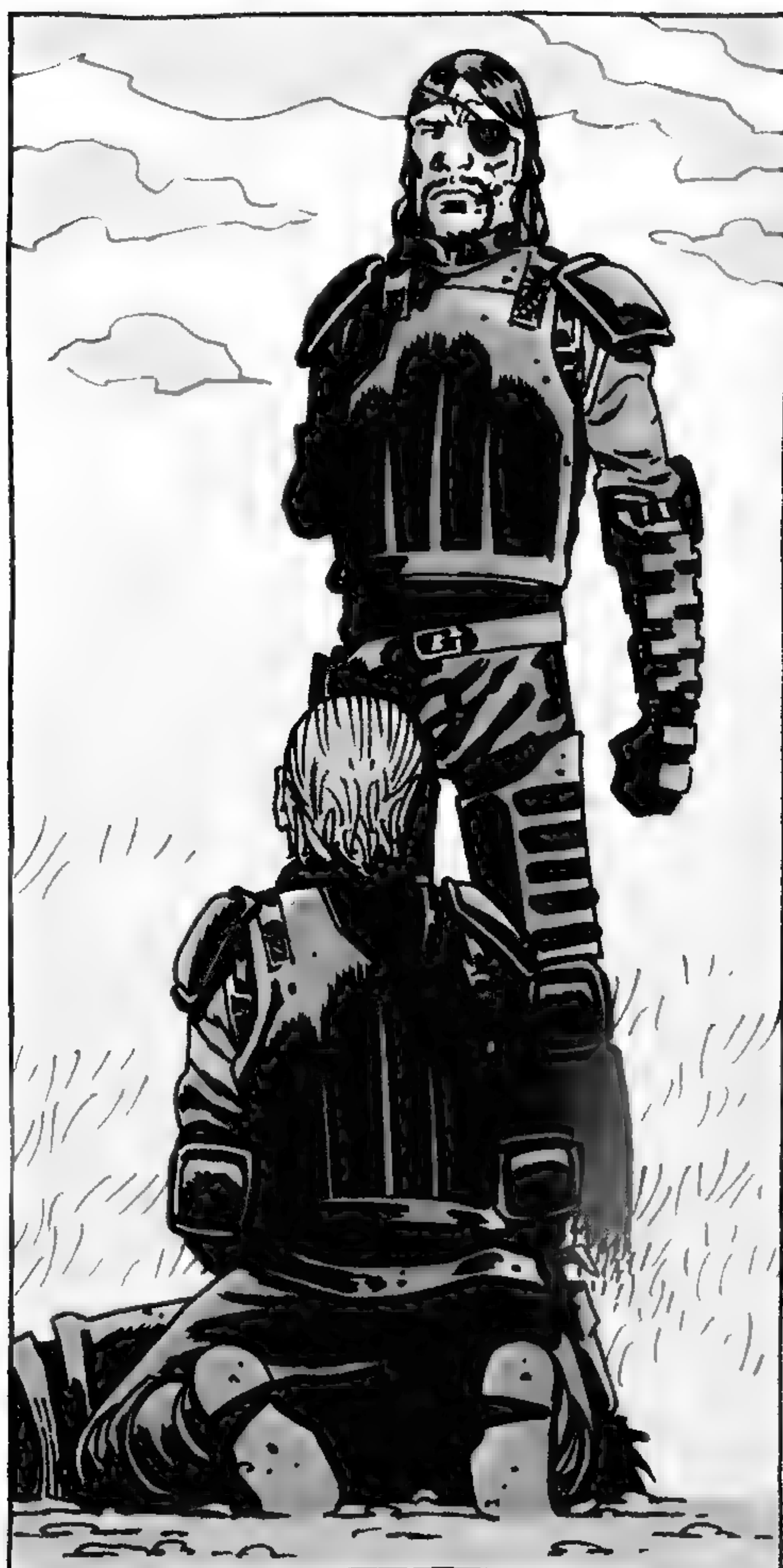
CARL!
SLOW
DOWN!

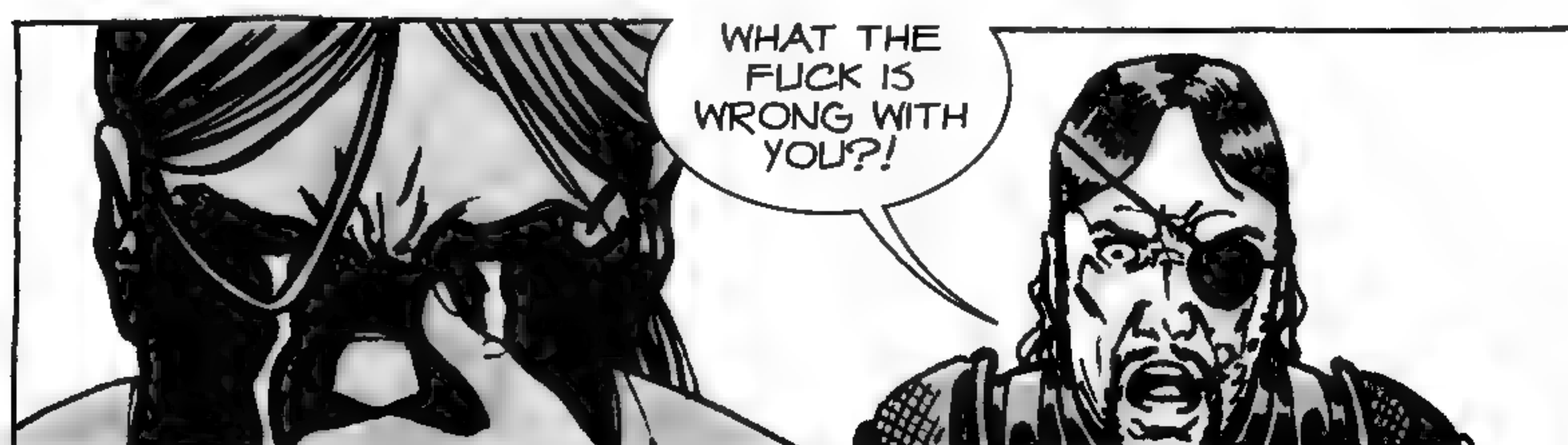
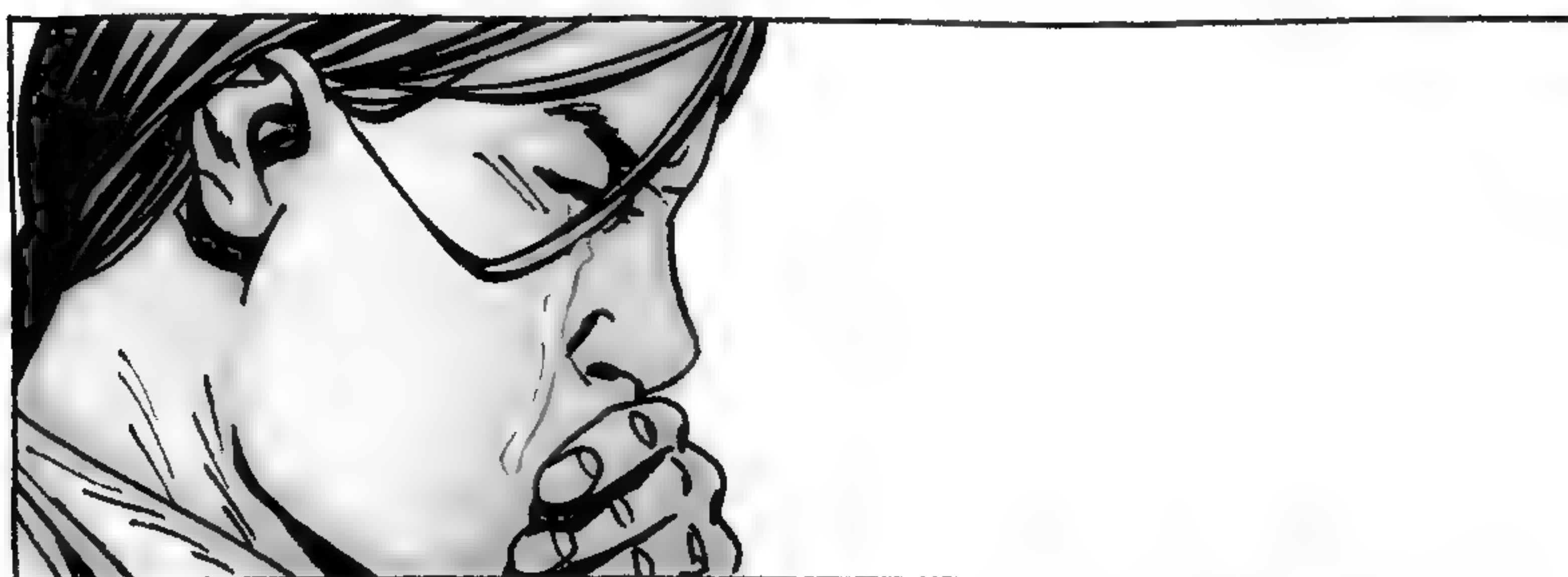
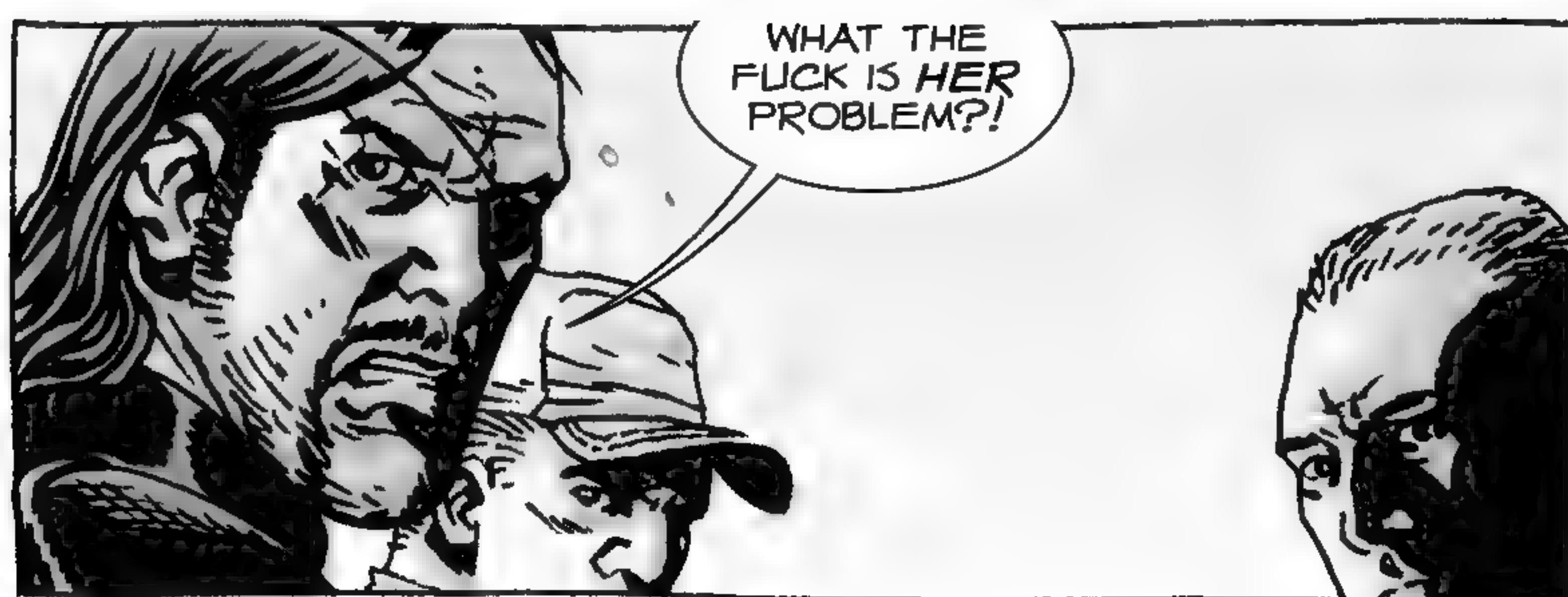
YOU'VE
GOTTA STAY
WITH US--
IT'S NOT
SAFE!





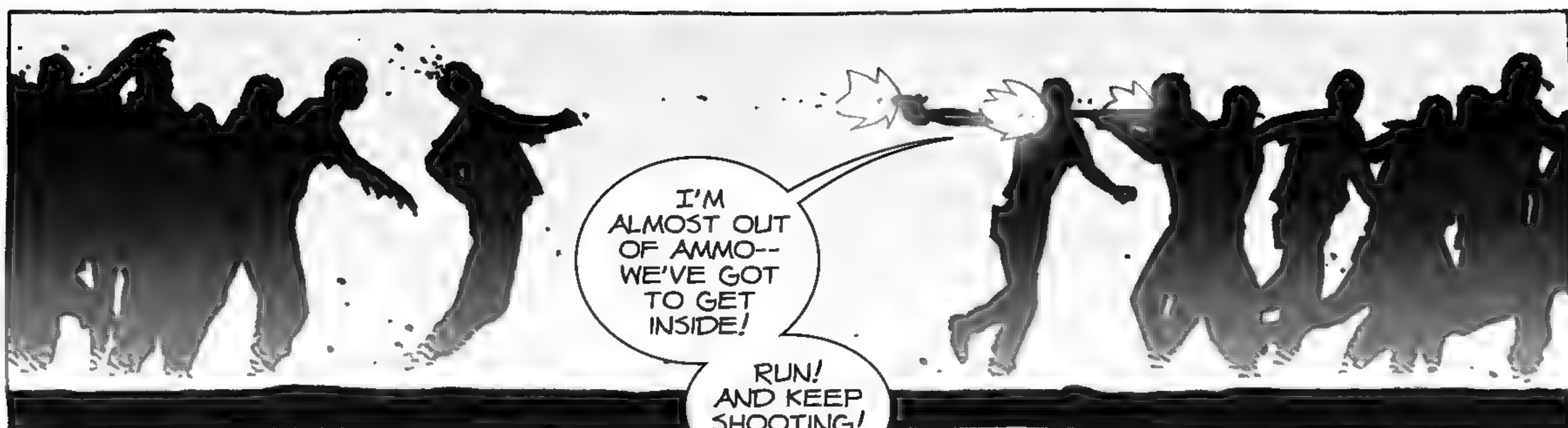


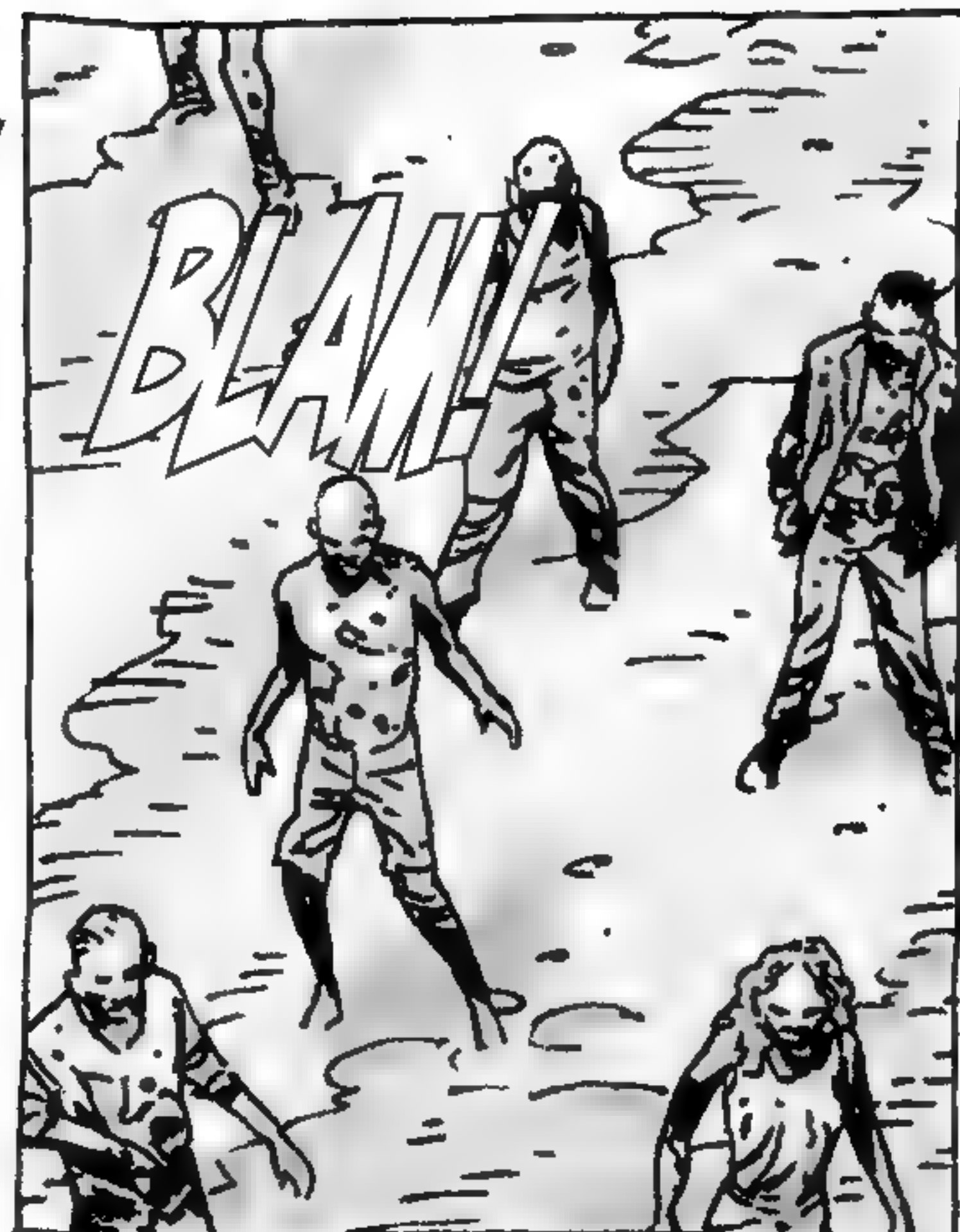


















Chay 108

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@FUNKOTRON.COM

Hello All,

I don't know what's crazier- Lori's death, or four letters in a row from Scott Spencer.

- Sina Grace

Issue 48—not really much for me to say after this one, other than—I'm glad we finally got to this issue and I can't wait until you guys see where we go from here.

Exciting times.

Hello Robert,

I just wanted to say I'm not one of the fans that has been with you since the beginning. I'm one of the guys that was drawn to your books through- word of mouth.

People always seem to apologize for this. At this point, two thirds of our readership came on after the first six issues of this series—and if you count the trades—there's still people just starting to read the book. It's nothing to apologize for—I think it's awesome. You're here now—that's all that matters.

Invincible is great. We all know it. But the reason I'm writing you is to tell you this. I've been getting TWD in trades. Well, the last trade THE CALM BEFORE vol 7 was SO DAMN GOOD that after reading that I had to pick up the issues. I just couldn't wait another 5-6 months to find out what happens. That's good story telling there and kudos to you.

Thanks for taking the plunge.

#44 and 45. To say that I'm enjoying these issues is like saying, 'a person *might* need oxygen to live.' They're good stuff.

One other thing. Last year I was rereading my Savage Dragon collection and I saw a letter of yours printed in Savage Dragon 74.

Garland Skowronski

I did in fact have a letter printed in that issue—I believe that's the ONLY letter I've ever had printed in a comic before. I suppose it helps that I already knew Larsen a little bit by that point.

Dear Walking Dead:

Tonight was zombie night for me. After reading The Walking Dead #45 and wishing that Dale, Glenn and Andrea didn't take off in that RV. Hell, they are needed, what the hell were they thinking? Living people need not wander about, they need to be altogether and fight off these living dead carcasses! Anyway, where was I? Oh ha, after reading this issue, I went to see a good zombie movie called "I Am Legend" with Will Smith. The zombies

in this movie are fast moving, not your typical slow moving zombie. There were two sad parts in this movie. When the dog was transforming and Will had to strangle the dog. Then when ***deleted because I wouldn't want to spoil things for anyone who hasn't seen the movie***. Now that I have read your comic book and saw this outstanding movie, I went ahead and rented 'Plague of the Zombies 1966 - about a voodoo cult in a Cornish village; Psychomania - about some motorcycle riding zombies; Toxic Zombies 1980 - the government sprays marijuana fields with a pesticide that makes the dope farmers become zombies. Yep! It's zombie night, I love dead people!

Paul Dale Roberts

You really picked some winners. Were you on a planet where Day of the Dead had been wiped from existence? Have another Zombie Night and watch Day of the Dead, Shaun of the Dead and Undead... you'll thank me later.

Hey,

I just have to tell you Mr. Kirkman that TWD is truly the comic I have been waiting for all my life. I love apocalyptic stories where people have to band together and figure out a way to survive under outrageous circumstances. I'm sure you've read Max Brooks "World War Z", but before that he wrote "The Zombie Survival Guide". I've read it twice. My husband doesn't read as much as me, but we can finally bond over your comic. We get the trades every few months and read them together. They make for great dinner conversation. We love comparing ourselves to the characters in TWD. We even have our own zombie fall-out shelter. Our large attic is filled with camping gear, winter clothes, even extra toys and books to distract the kids during that long wait after the initial panic. Lucky for us it's one of those pull-down stairs type, and it comes down into our enclosed food pantry. And our best advantage... My husband's a gun salesman. After all, luck favors the prepared.

Sounds like you're set.

I didn't even know there was this letter forum until I picked up issue #44 & 45, because I just couldn't wait any longer. I love hearing what other fans have to say now. However there were a lot of mentions about the racist rants and rape complaints people were apparently writing in about. That stuff had never even crossed my mind. I mean it's FICTION people! I must confess I never really liked Michonne though after she became a home wrecker. I thought it was just her bad Karma when she was captured by the Gov. I mean poor Carol was so clueless compared to the touch chic. She just didn't stand a chance. Michonne won me back though after she went after the Gov. and his crew of baddies. She actually managed to make Tyreese look like a wuss with the way she plunged ahead. I know or at least hope that she is not dead. That would suck. Seriously

suck!

Home wrecker's a little harsh—it's not like Tyreese and Carol were married or anything.

One question though... Who were those zombies Michonne had chained behind her when she first appeared in the story? I've always had a feeling that they had been people she knew and she had kept them around for company. Am I right?

That was her boyfriend and her boyfriend's best friend. It was vaguely hinted at in the story.

Thank you for writing such an amazing and EPIC story. My husband and I will continue to read with enthusiasm, and my 7 year old daughter will continue to sneak peeks as well.

Your well-prepared fan,
Amanda Maynard

Thanks for reading—and remember, when the zombies come—I'm going to need your address.

Hey Kirkman,

I just read The Walking Dead 45 and The Astounding Wolf-Man 4 and I think they are up there with some of the best single issues of all time! Plus I had 2 letters printed in Wolf-Man 4. I'm the goon Simpsons guy. I can't believe you went on the net to google something I mentioned, sweet! Anyway I never thought you and Adlard could top issue 32 but 45 is my fave twd so far. God, I hope that fat guy was lying about killing Michonne, she rules. The scene where Lori was telling Carl about how brave Rick is put a lump in my throat. I really care about these guys. The cover to twd 45 was reminiscent of The Astounding Wolf-Man 4 cover, pretty cool. I love that Dale and Andrea, my girl, have left for a while. I can't wait to see where they go.

1. Any chance Dale and company might run into Duane Jones and his dad? Nice little homage to Ben from notld.

It's possible, but not likely. The problem is it's pretty unrealistic for someone to just stumble upon someone else in this great big world of ours. Rick finding Lori and Carl made sense because he was on the exact same path as them. Finding someone at random—pretty impossible.

2. Tyreese will never break or rat out his friends which can only mean more torture are you worried your setting yourself up for more bullshit racist accusations?

Sure, but it's not going to make me rethink my writing and change things just out of fear of a few letters. That would make the book suck. I've already gotten a bunch of mail for issue 46 (will probably run some later in this column) and so far... I haven't seen any negative response to what happened.

3. I still haven't gotten my twd t-shirt is there a delay?

Not that I'm aware of. They're sitting in stock at the distributor—your retailer has only but to place an order.

Surely you've realized by now a Science Dog comic would sell like hot cakes so when's it coming out? I need a Cory Walker fix. You and Bendis are the future of comics, the quality of your books is amazing. So here's to 2008 being a year full of great Kirkman books.

Happy New Year, pal.

Scott Spencer

For the time being, Science Dog will only be 12-page back-up stories in every 25th issue of Invincible. The next one is coming up on Invincible

50, which should be on sale shortly after this issue is released. Cory and I would both like to do more Science Dog, but his schedule and mine just won't allow it.

The future, Bendis! We're the future!

Hi Kirkman,
The Walking Dead 45 was pure gold. The best issue yet! I can partly agree with Dale about leaving, I mean, is the prison worth dying over? Then again wherever they set up home they'll always be at risk from desperados unless they trek into some mountains and live off the land Cruoso style. Witch I think is a good idea. You can always live off the land especially in America. Saying that, the prison is really well guarded unless they've got tanks—oh wait. God I care about these people when you've followed this book religiously for a couple years you really share their highs and lows. I was really overjoyed and relieved when Judith was born healthy and not devoured in utero by rotten folk. Also, not knowing if Michonne is alive or dead is killing me. She was always a bit off an outsider in the group, but seeing her come together with the group to fight the Woodbury goons was proof of how great she is. Dale's foolish for putting the kids in a van meters away from the dead and thinking he's saving them. I love the Mad Max 2 element of this book. Man would revert back to beastly basics ready to wage war for a tank of gas or your digs. Hershel is delusional after all his suffering. He still thinks there's a beardy twat in the sky looking out for him. Sorry, I despise religion. I blame it for every war man has fought. TWD is the one book I can't live without so keep 'em coming.

Scott Spencer

Thanks for writing in Scott—wow, two letters in a row. I can't help but get the sense that your two letters still haven't quite covered all your thoughts—you think maybe, oh wait—okay...

Hi Kirkman,
I think The Walking Dead is about to get crazy I've thought about how fucking huge and epic it would be if an issue ended with a radio transmission from a government or army official and I realized how truly special this book is. Its way bigger than just some creator owned indie comic. I believe you're on par with Romero. What I'd give to see you two collaborate on a project!

Hey—me too. All George has to do is call.

1. Have you seen diary of the dead yet? I'm counting the days.

I have not. It's not playing in my area yet—but as soon as it is—I'll be sure to check it out.

One numbered question, huh? You're getting lazy.

Adlard's covers are smoking! I love the red colours used for the war arc please let Tyreese survive being beheaded saying that his balls seemed to be in Michonne's handbag in 45. Michonne says jump, Tyreese says "how high?"

TWD rules the comic world.

Scott Spencer

Yeah, I guess Tyreese was a bit neutered in his last scenes—but Michonne is just that strong-willed a person... and Tyreese was a bit out of his element. You done writing letters now? Oh... nevermind.

Hi Kirkman,
I just saw the cover to TWD 49, and it smokes! It's gotta be one of my favorites. Carl really is a tough little survivor. I suppose it's akin to children in warzones,

death all around, literally for Carl. I suppose you'd become numb to the violence. He's had to grow up fast and poor Judith, a childhood is out of the question!

Yeah—no kidding.

At least rick and company can take comfort in their memories Judith's first sounds were a saw hacking through bone and screams. It makes me think of the Terminator mythos and kids that were born after the machines had taken over. I'm not sure I like your vision for the future of this book. You know, a couple of survivors in a cabin where they hardly ever see a zombie. It's like you've gone off zombie action. I mean, soap stuffs cool and all but only because they're surviving a zombie haulocaust.

Don't worry—there will be more zombies in the book movie ahead then there probably has ever been. People should be pleased.

1. Have these guys ever debated why this is happening? That's what's so good about Dawn of the Dead.

There will certainly be more talk of "why" coming up. I'm not saying they'll find the answers—but there's going to be questions asked. It still hasn't even been a year yet in the book—and they've been spending the time up to this point just dealing with the crisis—trying to stay alive. Once they're over the initial shock—they'll be looking for answers... at least more than they have been.

2. Is Alice gonna tie up any more zombies after what happened to carol?

Probably not... obviously (after reading this issue).

You did say you're not gonna reveal the cause and I like it that way. Marvel Zombies rules. I think it's a huge turning point in Marvel's history.

Hopefully a POSITIVE turning point in history. We'll see.

Having Captain America's rotting brain put in to the corpse of a black man was sweet. And the covers smoke! You and Bendis are the Kirby and Lee of my generation! Brubaker's no slouch either. I started reading Daredevil and Captain America recently.

We're Lee and Kirby but neither of us draw (well)? That doesn't make sense. Can't Bendis and Bagley be Lee and Kirby? I'll be Alan Moore, if you don't mind. Brubaker can be Claremont.

3. Are the t-shirts delayed I still haven't gotten my TWD tee?

I hope you've gotten it by now. If not, you need to make sure your retailer ordered it for you. I don't know what the delay could be.

Here's to the Governor getting wasted soon.

Scott Spencer

Your toast is my command. Governor got wasted in this very issue!

Mr. Kirkman,

I just spent a weekend catching up with some reading, and at one point it became 'zombie time'. While I still collect every TWD as it comes out, this was the first time I read all 7 trades in one sitting. It finally dawned on me at one point that there have been more deaths to this group since they've reached the 'sanctuary' of the prison, than prior to getting there.

Well, it is important to note that they were out of the prison from issues 1 to 12, and in the prison

from 13 to 48... so it's only logical there would be more deaths in that time. Deaths from zombie attacks? Not so much, I don't think...

I guess similar to all Romero themed stories, the real 'bad guys' of TWD are those who still have a pulse. In my opinion that's what truly makes a zombie story scary.

Well, adversaries who can think would always pose more of a threat.

Now getting back to my reading. Upon completion of TWD, I moved on to a story by Brian Keene called Dead Sea. It was a pretty good read, and I was floored to find out that he makes at least two references to The Walking Dead! I guess this means you've officially become 'pop culture'! Congratulations, and keep up the great storyline!

Aloha,
Gordon Fernandez

Yeah, I've been hearing a lot about Dead Sea by Brian Keene, I really would like to read it, so I'm sure I'll buy it eventually and read the first 80 pages and then never get back to it, despite how much I enjoy it, like I've done with every novel I've tried to read in the last two years.

I've still got to read World War Z.

Anyway, I'm super flattered that Brian Keene used the comics in his book. That's' very, VERY cool.

Mr. Kirkman,

Hello.

I just finished Walking Dead #45, and I continue to enjoy your storyline. I was surprised that Alice seems to now be able to perform trauma surgery. I am sure there is more to her character and expertise than what is explicitly revealed in the panels, but this seemed to be a bit of a stretch for me. I realize that Hershel has some surgical veterinary experience and probably lent a hand, but I had assumed that being gut shot meant Rick was getting written out.

Oh, ye of little faith! It's not overly explained in the series but Alice is pretty much a genius, who can just read books and do the things she reads about. She's almost completely self-taught and can do a whole range of different medical procedures now—or rather, she could. And Hershel helped her a bit on top of that.

I also had a request. How about a collection of the cover pages? The art is great and it does not seem to make it into the trade paperbacks.

Happy New Year,
Dave Miller

That will be published eventually... possibly very soon.

Robert,

I have been a comic book collector since 1977. I have seen comics come and go. I have collected through the good times and the bad. I recently, I was talking with a guy at the place where I get my comics (Jester's Playhouse in Northfield NJ) and we were discussing the current state of comics. Being an "old school" collector, I find that the big two (Marvel and DC) have lost all respect for the comic collector with the Death of Steve Rogers and ruining Spider-Man in more ways than I care to get into. And DC taking great stories like Identity Crisis and bleeding it 'til it screams "STOP!" I have lost a lot of the love that I had for the hobby. Marvel's Ultimate series is

something that I term "A Really Bad Idea Done Really Well!"

Then I was told about the "best comic on the market"... The Walking Dead. Sure, okay. After talking about it, and I do love zombies, I thought, "okay, I'll try the first trade." It was pretty good. Very interesting. Nice Character development. I'll give the second one a try. After reading that, I bought all seven trades en mass plus issues 43-45. I just finished #45. I couldn't put them down. I tried to finish the newest DUNE book before i got into it, but the WALKING DEAD was so riveting that I couldn't put it down. As much as I love zombies, I thought it was going to get old with issue after issue of zombies eating people. The post apocalyptic zombie infestation is more of a setting than what the actual book is about. It's just awesome. Sadly, I now have to wait for mere monthly installments.

I posted a review on my blog. Hopefully, it will attract more readers. In it, I mentioned that this would be the perfect show to put HBO back on the map.

Don't I know it...

The only negative that I can say about this book is that I forgot what it was like to be this exited about collecting comics. When the next issue comes out, I will be so happy that I'll probably read it in the car. Only POWERS comes close to this book.

Yeah, but how close does it actually come? Not very—right? RIGHT?!

The WALKING DEAD is my new favorite comic book. At 45 issues it has held up more than Y: The Last Man has, which was a great book, but lost steam after a while.

Keep up the good work. . . .and Thanks!

Kevin Dillon

No, thank you for the kind words, sir.

Dear Mr. Kirkman:
TWD has made its way into Spain and we at our drawing academy are totally delighted at it. I personally am completely hooked to it. Let's start with some comments: The series are taking place during 2004-05 right? So, where's the Internet gone? I feel quite down because in about 40 issues there have been no reference at all to telecommunication networks.

Yeah, I chose pretty early on to ignore that for at least the initial stuff. I figured most of those attempts would have been made when Rick was in a coma... and by the time he woke up, people had given up. I'm sure Axel spent a bit of time on the prison computer Googling that woman from the HITMAN movie—we all have.

I mean, even an amateur radio operator properly motivated by a biter (sounds weird in spanish: "mordedores") apocalypse could set up a working trick radio emitter or WiFi hotspot properly configured for broadcasting and there haven't been any.

Maybe all those guys capable of that got eaten—who knows.

When I saw the Christmas episode with the game console I thought that would be it, but it wasn't. And when the characters got to the city and then to the NG station I thought "This is going to be it: they will find a PC or internet console or whatever" But... you now. Many of my generation would be very delighted at the introduction of a new character the "hacker/computer geek" type who could manage to communicate with people from Atlanta or elsewhere. Maybe the little kid who got his present for Chrsitmas, maybe a new character. This would be a completely new unseen episode in any zombie-related stories I can name, and I think know quite a lot. I am

not talking about some Umbrella supercorporation, for god's sake, no. Just a simple, normal, common day use internet user.

I imagine it would be pretty boring for the characters to sit in a chat room online for even five pages of an issue. It's just not practically for a comic, in my opinion.

And by the way: what has been done to the GSM network? Any walking dead in AT&T or Telefonica uniform wandering around? hehe... that'd be cool. I am not going to start bullshitting you about racial issues but IMHO the hispanic died too quickly; he was a good, character with a developed background. I can't believe Rick did not take him back to the infirmary after running over him while driving the van.

Sorry about that. I did regret that Martinez had to go like he did. That was the characters arc—and it was unfortunate that he happened to be the only Hispanic in the book. There will be more... eventually.

There is another character who may play a main role: the woman who complains at the Governor's massacre. She could well become the next governor of a matriarcate or something like that. Congratulations for this amazing piece of art. Keep it coming!

Alfonso

Thanks for writing, I'll do my best to keep things entertaining.

Hey,
I could go on and on about how great your writing is or how fantastic the books you write are and even tell you that I read practically everything you write. But I won't.

Cya,
Adam Davis

Well then I'm not going to print your letter. So we're even.

Dear Mr. Kirk-Man

I was just wondering if Carl is named after Carl Winslow?

Dimitri Vastardis

No, although I do share a love for Family Matters with my good friend Cory Walker, although I would consider his love to be more of an unhealthy obsession, but that's just how I see things.

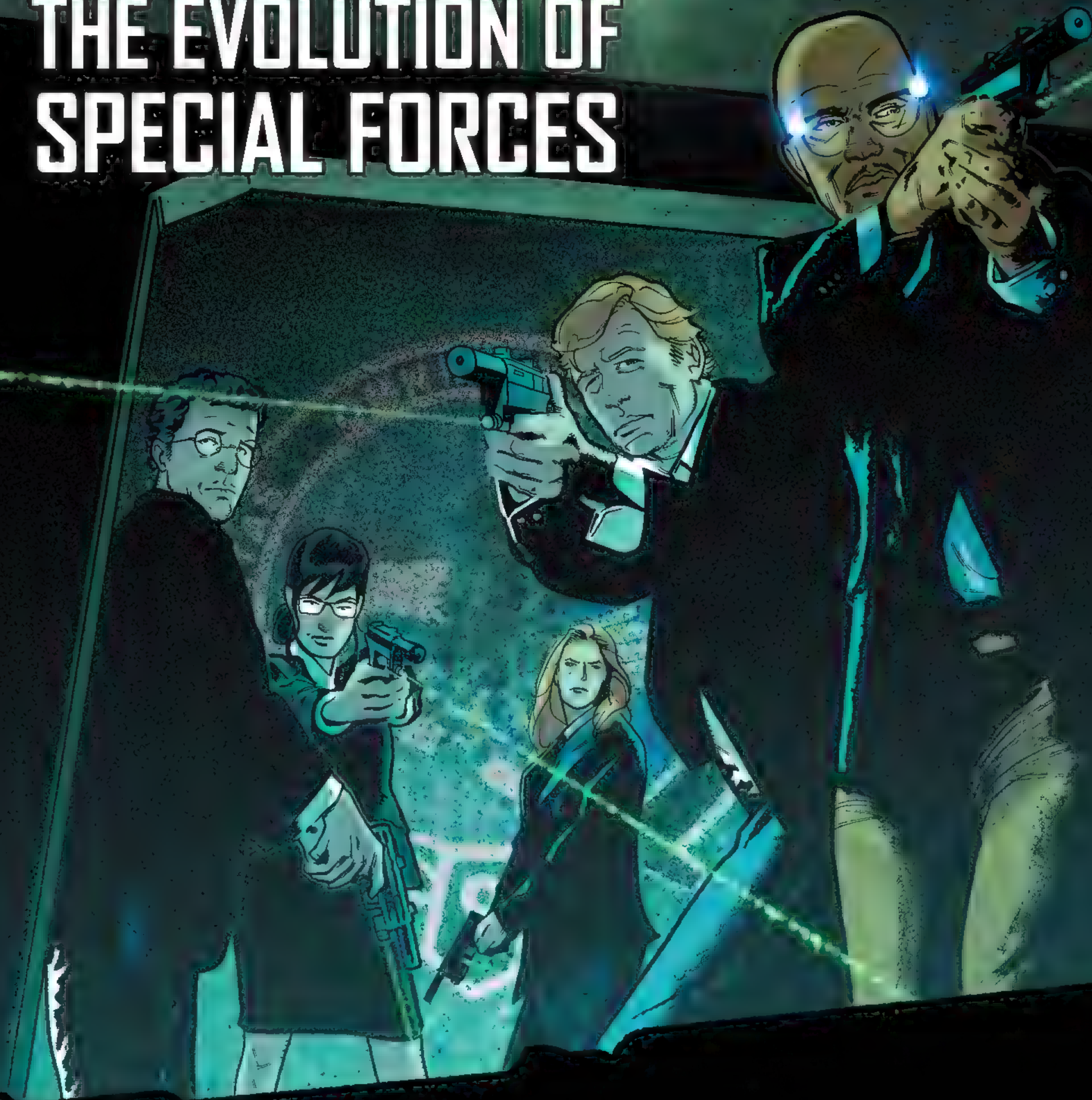
No, Carl is named after my father. I also thought it was a unique name for a child these days. I pushed for it for my own son but my wife hated it—so we went another way.

Okay... so there you go... issue 48 in the can. On to issue, which should be in stores shortly, a month or less—but y'know... no promises.

See you then!

—Robert Kirkman

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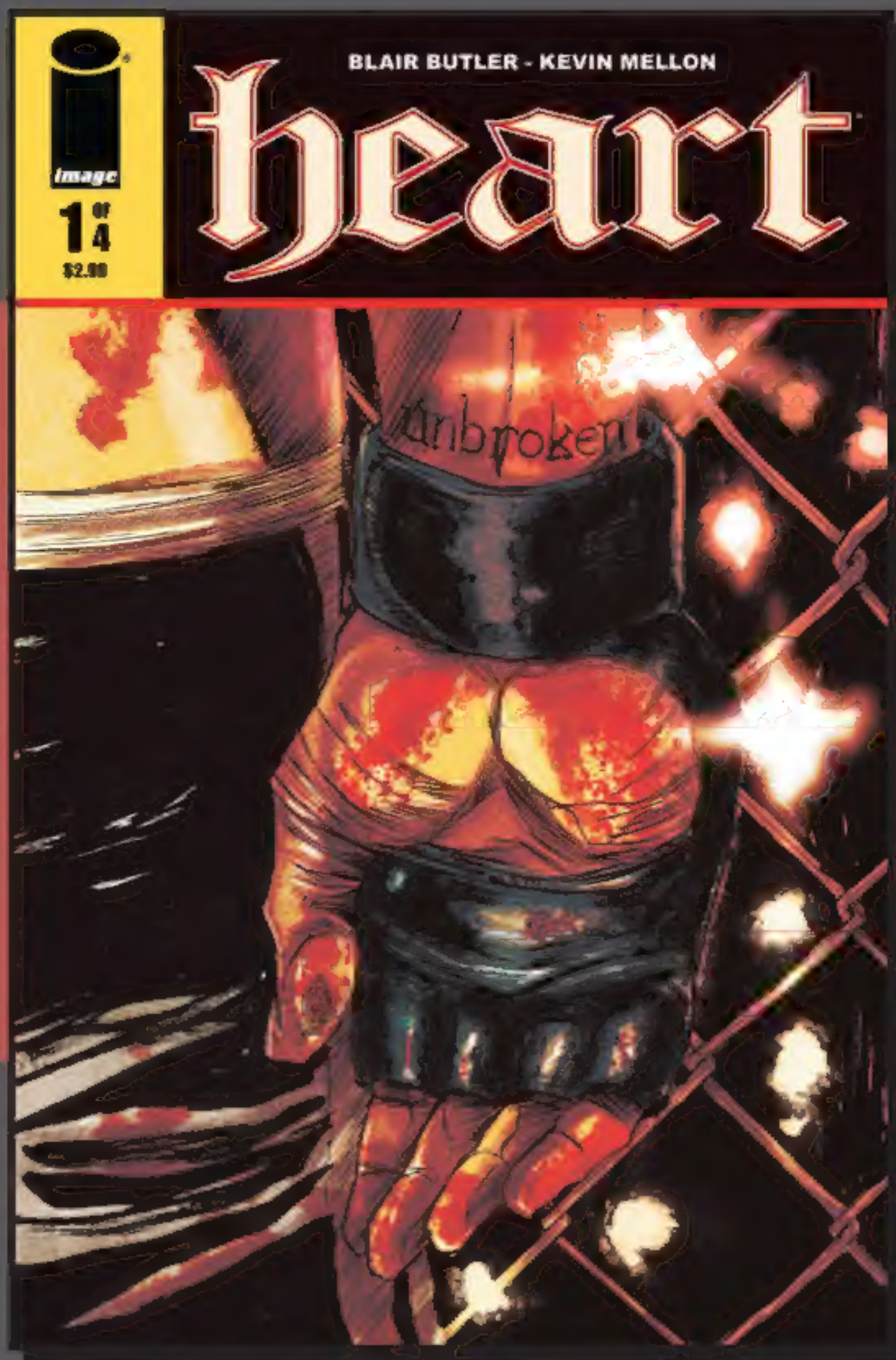
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NOVEMBER 2011

HEART #1

Mixed Martial Arts and comics collide when an office drone named Oren “Rooster” Redmond follows his older brother into the fiercely competitive world of professional MMA. With nothing left to lose, Oren hopes to find his purpose in fighting – but does passion equal proficiency? Does Oren truly have the heart of a champion? Find out in the first chapter of this four-issue series.

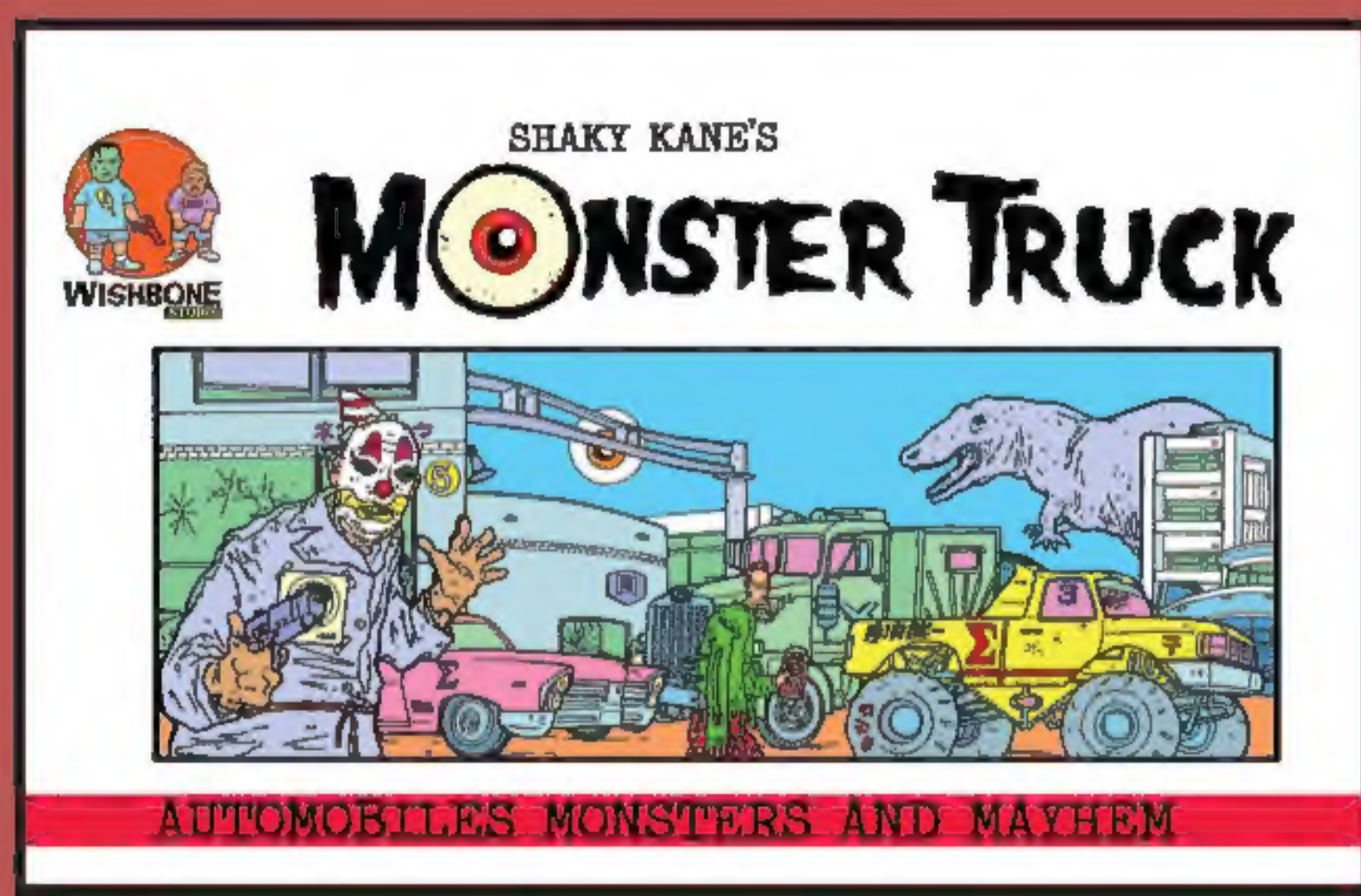


MUDMAN #1

A BRAND-NEW SUPERHERO COMIC BY PAUL GRIST! It's the first day back at school for Owen Craig, and it's not going too well. He's been run over, got detention, and his police officer father has been taken prisoner by armed bank robbers. And now his body seems to be turning into mud...

OUR LOVE IS REAL

THE FUTURE IS HERE! Plantsexuals riot in the streets for equal rights. Humans fall in love with dogs. And crystals are more than just jewelry. A chance encounter on the job changes a riot cop's life forever as he finds himself caught in a bizarre love triangle that blurs romance, crime, and lust beyond recognition.



SHAKY KANE'S MONSTER TRUCK

GET YOUR MOTOR ROLLING AND HEAD OUT ALONG COMIC BOOK ROUTE 666! Taking its stylistic cues from the silver age of comics, this graphic road movie by comics legend SHAKY KANE pans out over 50 continuous panels, taking the reader on a hallucinogenic journey into the very hinterland of popular culture. Deluxe, recolored, remastered second printing of the WISHBONE STUDIO cult classic.

27 SECOND SET #3 (of 4)

ARTIFACTS #11 (of 13)

AVENGELYNE #5

BLUE ESTATE #7

CARBON GREY ORIGINS #1 (of 2)

CHEW #22

DARKNESS #95

ELEPHANTMEN #36

GLADSTONES SCHOOL
FOR WORLD CONQUERORS #7

GRAVEYARD OF EMPIRES #3

GREEN WAKE #7

HACK SLASH #10

THE INFINITE #4

INVINCIBLE #84

LAST OF THE GREATS #2

LI'L DEPRESSED BOY #8

MORIARTY #6

MORNING GLORIES #14

NEAR DEATH #3

PIGS #3

REED GUNTHER TP VOL 1

SAVAGE DRAGON #175

SEVERED #4 (of 7)

SKULLKICKERS TP VOL 2
FIVE FUNERALS & A BUCKET OF BLOOD

SPAWN #213

THE STRANGE TALENT
OF LUTHER STRODE #2 (of 6)

SUPER DINOSAUR TP VOL 1

THE WALKING DEAD #91

WITCHBLADE #149

XENOHOLICS #2

CHECKLIST

For the latest Image Comics

The Third Degree:

BLAIR BUTLER

IMAGE COMICS'
MONTHLY Q&A
SESSION

Blair Butler is a writer, producer, and on-air comic book correspondent for G4's *Attack of the Show*. Her first comic book, *Heart*, (with art by the fantastic Kevin Mellon) tells the story of a young cage fighter who is quite good at punching dudes in the face until they go to sleep. The first issue hits store shelves Nov. 2nd. She has also appeared on Comedy Central, E!, MTV, and wrote and directed a ridiculous zombie pilot for VH1, as well as G4's animated "Slasher School" series of animated shorts. You can see her weekly comic book reviews at www.G4tv.com/Freshlnk.

What are you working on right now?

Wrapping up *Heart* issue #4 and writing/producing/corresponding for G4's *Attack of the Show*. So it's a good mix of scripting tragic, comic book punching -- and scripting "critical commentary" for videos of guys getting tragically punched in the nuts for a TV show. I'm also about to leave for New York Comic Con. I've been to NYCC every year since it launched, but this is the first year I'll be there with a book of my own. So that's a pretty good/slightly scary feeling. Plus, I'll get to see *Heart* artist Kevin Mellon there. It's like we had a crazy, comic book baby together -- but we've only met in person once.

What's the best part of your job?

Getting to talk comics and MMA on a daily basis. Getting to meet great comic book creators -- and great fighters. I'm also blessed to work with some really amazing people behind the scenes at AOTS. Oh, and sometimes we have wild animals on the set. Like a surfing llama. That was a pretty good day.

What's the worst part of your job?

Attack of the Show is live 5 days a week, 50 weeks a year, so there's zero down time. Have you ever seen a hamster running in one of those little plastic wheels? It's like that, but the hamster never gets off the damn wheel. Although instead of a water bottle, the hamster gets a coffee drip. So that helps. I also get to work with a few other incredibly talented writers on *Attack*, including comic book scribe Gerry Duggan (*Infinite Horizon*, *Last Christmas*).

How did you first discover comics?

My dad took me to Clint's Comics in Kansas City and let me buy whatever I wanted from the quarter bin. I grew up on old, discounted, dog-eared issues of *She-Hulk*, *EC Horror Comics*, and *Werewolf by Night*. Then, somehow I persuaded my dad to buy me "Batman: The Cult" at age, I dunno, 8 or 9. I'm sure he thought, "Hey, it's Batman, this is fine for a kid" -- but at the time was one of the most violent mainstream comics ever released. And, of course, I loved it. Bernie Wrightson drawing an axe murder! In a Batman book! It was insane! So then I hunted down (Wrightson's) stuff on *Cycle of the Werewolf*, and all those Marvel Graphic Novels he did -- which eventually lead to the *New Mutants MGN*... Basically, the *New Mutants* were my gateway drug. After the Batman axe murder.

What's the strangest thing a fan has ever said to you?

"You're not as fat as you are on TV."

Who is the biggest influence on your work?

This one is easy. Most influenced by Jason Aaron, Brian Wood, and Ed Brubaker. Most inspired by Gail Simone, Greg Rucka, and Jonathan Hickman.

What is the single work of which you're most proud?

Honestly, *Heart*. It's a story I've been dying to tell -- that just happens to be full of fellas beatin' each other up. And the old "Slasher School" animated shorts we did at G4. Naked Werewolf. Need I say more?

Own up to one of your guilty pleasures.

Project Runway and *Work of Art* on Bravo. So much drama. So much pretension. Also *Spartacus* on Starz. OH MY GOODNESS THE GRATUITOUS EVERYTHING!

What was the last comic book you bought?

Oh jeez. I mean, I buy boatloads. It'd be too hard to list them all. I buy about 40 bucks of new comics and trades each week. It's like having a crack habit.

Who would play you in a movie about your life?

Shelley Duvall.

Pick three things you couldn't live without.

I could live without a lot of stuff. But life wouldn't be much fun without cupcakes, videogames (*Gears*, *Fallout*, *Uncharted*, *C.O.D.*, etc.), and good brunch places. I'm a power-bruncher. Sunday morning is my Friday night.

What's the strangest thing you have in your house?

A huge, Sideshow Collectibles, X-3 Beast maquette statue. Dude looks like a naked, blue werewolf. Also, I'll soon have the last page of *Heart* issue #1 framed and hanging on my wall -- if you've seen it, you'd know why it's a...uh... "conversation piece."

What music are you listening to these days?

An odd mix. Some really good stuff for *Heart* though -- if you read the book, the fighters' entrance music is big part of it. So songs like *Hometown Hero* by Big K.R.I.T. with Yelawolf, *Beautiful Lasers* by Lupe Fiasco, and *Reach for the Sky* by Social Distortion.

What is your favorite film of all time?

Toss up between *Blade Runner* (Director's cut) and *Annie Hall*.

When was the last time you were truly frightened?

When I went skydiving. My hand was shaking so badly when I signed the release form -- the one where you basically say, "I'm not gonna sue if I pancake to the earth and die," -- that I could barely write my name. But I did it. And it was amazing-* (*-ly scary).

What would you like to see happen in comics in the next 12 months?

Totally selfish answer: I'd like to put more comics out into the world. I love this.

What the world needs now is...

To calm down. Everybody calm down.

the **i** word

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Question of the Month

what's your favorite
tool of the trade?

"The internet. I live in Ontario, my artist in New York, colorist in Illinois, letterer in Michigan and publisher in California, but it all works thanks to web-tastic goodness."

Jim Zubkavich
SKULLKICKERS

"The pencil. Ever since my chubby toddler hands were able to grasp one, it's the one tool I've used consistently to this day."

Joshua Luna
WHISPERS

"My Wacom Cintiq tablet."

Joe Eisma
MORNING GLORIES

"My favorite tool for creating comics is definitely a program called Scrivener. It lets you write visually, so that I can see the pages as separate units that can be moved around. Perfect for outlining and story arc planning, and simple to use. Couldn't live without it!"

Joshua Hale Fialkov
LAST OF THE GREATS

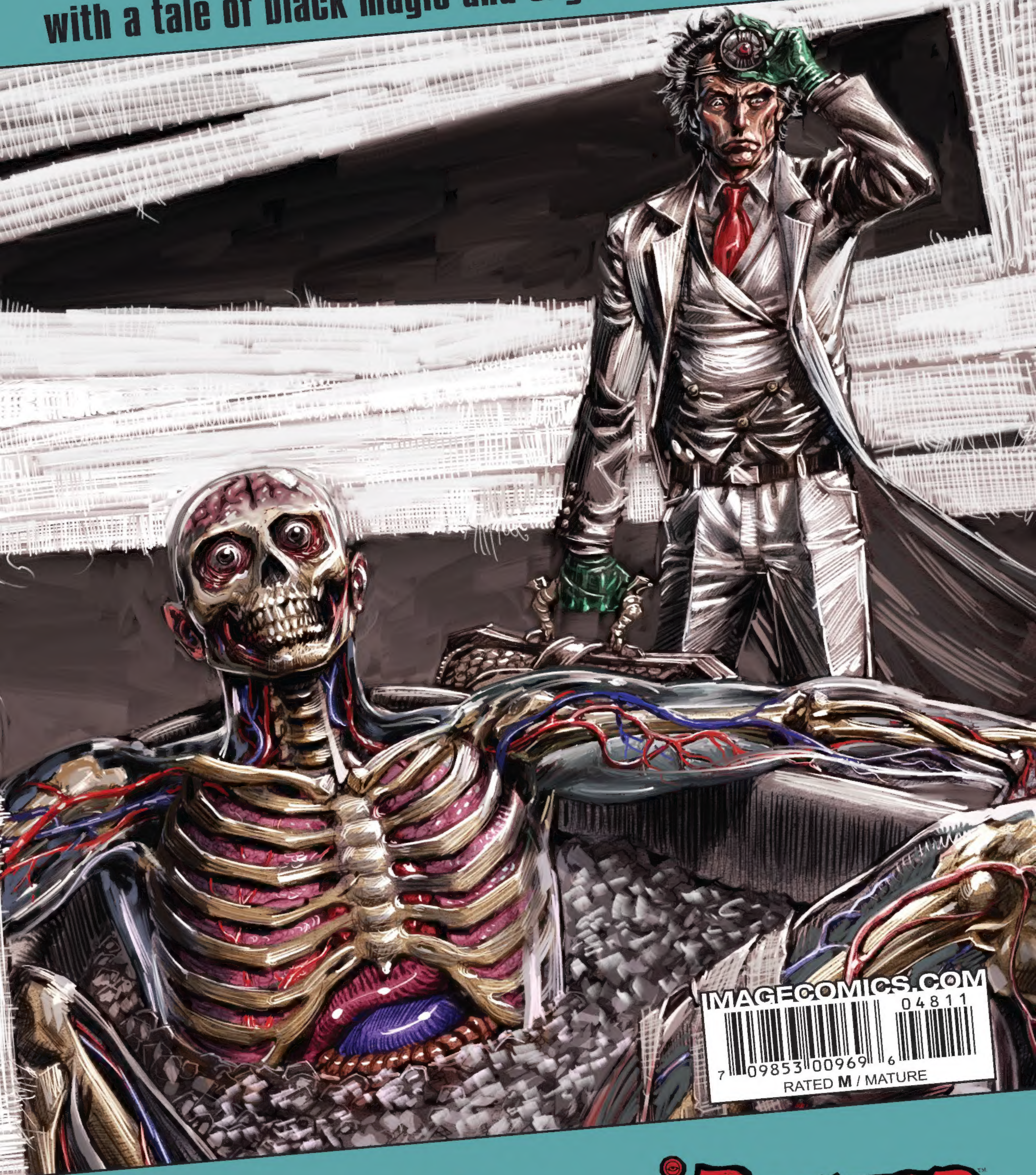
"The most useful tool for any comic book creator is nagging, debilitating envy."

Tim Seeley
HACK SLASH, BLOODSTRIKE

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The medical horror smash hit returns
with a tale of black magic and organ-swapping!



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ON SALE
DECEMBER

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BRANDON SEIFERT
art & cover by
LUKAS KETNER

WITCH DOCTOR

THE RESUSCITATION

SKYBOUND

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